GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2849
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
DISCOVERY OF INSCRIPTIONS
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of inscriptions discovered and copied by ASI during the last three years, till date, State-wise and language-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the ASI to publish the corpus of Brahmi inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the line of corpus of Asokan Brahmi inscriptions;

(c) whether the ASI has published any catalogue on ancient South Indian coins collected during the past 20 years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken any steps to document and catalogue these coins in private possession;

(f) if so, the details thereof:
(g) the reasons for not deputing separate officer (Dravidian language) for the study of ancient South Indian coins and preparation of catalogue; and
(h) the steps taken for the proper case of these inscriptions?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) The number of inscriptions discovered and copied by ASI in the last three years may kindly be seen in Annexure `A`.

(b) ASI is planning to publish the Brahmi inscriptions found in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(c)to(f) ASI has not published any catalogue on the ancient South Indian coins.The Epigraphy Branch, however, has prepared an inventory for about 640 coins preserved in the Directorate of Epigraphy. A catalogue of these coins is under preparation.

(g) A Dy.Superintending Epigraphist (Numismatics) has already been posted.

(h) Necessary steps have been taken to preserve these inscriptions.

ANNEXURE `A`

INSCRIPTIONS (SANSKRIT AND DRAVIDIAN)

Year 1997-98

State-wise	No. of inscriptions copied.
1. Andhra Pradesh	15
2. Karnataka	02
3. Kerala	04
4. Madhya Pradesh	19
5. Maharashtra	09
6. Orissa	11

7 Rajasthan. 01

8. Tamil Nadu 68
TOTAL 129

Language-wise

1. Prakrit 01

2. Sanskrit 25

3. Sanskrit and Telugu. 01

4. Kannada 24

5. Tamil 68
6. Telugu. 02

7 Local Dialect 08

Total 129

Year 1998-99

State-wise No. of inscriptions copied

1. Andhra Pradesh 26

2. Karnataka 01

3. Madhya Pradesh. 50

4. Orissa. 11

5. Rajasthan. 71
6. Tamil Nadu 248

7 Uttar Pradesh. 23

Total 430

Language-wise No. of inscriptions copied

1. Prakrit 45

2. Sanskrit 83

3. Kannada 31

4. Local dialect 13

5. Tamil Nadu 243
6. Telugu 15

Total 430

Year 1999-2000

State-wise No. of inscriptions copied

1. Andhra Pradesh 10

2. Assam 15

3. Karnataka 40

4. Kerala 01

5. Manipur 30
6. Madhya Pradesh 10

7 Maharashtra 11

8. Orissa 87

9. Rajasthan 18
10. Tamil Nadu 244
11. Uttar Pradesh 04

Total 470

Language-wise Inscriptions are being transcribed and studied.

INSCRIPTIONS (ARABIC AND PERSIAN)

Year 1997-98

State-wise No. of inscriptions copied

1. Andhra Pradesh 95

2. Delhi 21

3. Maharashtra 11

4. Tamil Nadu 01

5. Uttar Pradesh 22

Total 140

Language-wise

1. Arabic 43

2. Persian 55

3. Urdu 27

4. Others/bilingual/trilingual. 15

Total 140

Year 1998-99

State-wise No. of inscriptions copied.

1. Andhra Pradesh 42

2. Delhi 15

3. Maharashtra 31

4. Karnataka 01

5. Kerala 08
6. Uttar Pradesh 27

Total 124

Language-wise

1. Aranbic 32

2. Persian 37

3. Urdu 27

4. Others/bilingual/trilingual 28

Total 124

Year 1999-2000

State-wise No. of Inscriptions copied

1. Delhi 38

2. Madhya Pradesh 03

3. Maharashtra 51

4. Tamil Nadu 02

5. Uttar Pradesh 45
6. West Bengal 12

Total 151

Language-wise

1. Arabic 33

2. Persian 61

3. Urdu 23

4. Others/Bilingual/Trilingual 34

Total 151